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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,466	12/27/2001	Wayne F. Miller	SVL920010012US1	8375

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EXAMINER

KRISCIUNAS, LINDA MARY.

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/033,466

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Linda Krisciunas

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>March 29, 2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The following is a Final Office Action in response to the applicant's amendments filed March 29, 2006. Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 14-29 were amended.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

2. The Examiner withdraws the objection to claims 5, 8, 9, 15, 18-19, 25 and 28-29 with respect to the informality of using the term "and" instead of "or".

#### ***Response to Arguments***

3. The Examiner has fully considered the applicant's arguments and they have been deemed not persuasive. The applicant asserts that Nakaoka (US 6,092,048) does not teach direct line sequential relationship between tasks. Nakaoka teaches (column 5, lines 8-18) where there is a tree structure which expresses a main task and subtask relationship between tasks and a means for displaying. Additionally, see Figure 11 which depicts a main task "go to show" and it's hierarchically related subsequent sub-tasks, "create report", "clear traveling expenses" etc.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakaoka (US 6,092,048).

As per claims 1, 11 and 21 Nakaoka teaches presenting a list view that includes a work item (See Figure 11: task list ); selecting the work item from the list view (See Figure 11: the item is selected and any related sub tasks are indented below it); and exhibiting the work item in a process view (See Figure 11: tasks are listed as to where they are in the process of completion), that presents a graphical representation of the work item within a process (See Figure 11: graphical chart), and includes a directed line that represents a sequential relationship of the work item relative to another work item in said process ((column 5, lines 8-18) where there is a tree structure which expresses a main task and subtask relationship between tasks and a means for displaying. Additionally, see Figure 11 which depicts a main task "go to show" and it's hierarchically related subsequent sub-tasks, "create report", "clear traveling expenses" etc.).

As per claims 2, 12, and 22 Nakaoka teaches presenting the list view which comprises presenting the work item in textual format (See Figure 11: where the tasks are listed using text).

As per claims 3, 13, and 23 Nakaoka teaches exhibiting the work item in the process view which comprises representing the work item as a node in the process view (column 12, lines 1-6: "as shown in FIG. 11, the tree structure which has the icon disposed at the left end of the task title list as the node expresses that the task "GO TO XX SHOW" has the task "CREATE REPORT", the task "CLEAR TRAVELING EXPENSES" and the task "CLASSIFY CATALOGS" as the subtasks thereof.").

As per claims 4, 14 and 24 Nakaoka teaches exhibiting the work item in the process view comprises graphically representing a characteristic of the work item (See Figure 11: where the indented sub tasks represent a characteristic of the main tasks).

As per claims 5, 15 and 25 Nakaoka teaches graphically representing said characteristic comprises a mode selected from a group consisting of: displaying the work item in a particular color, underlining the work item, and representing the work item as an icon (column 12, lines 1-6: "as shown in FIG. 11, the tree structure which has the icon disposed at the left end of the task title list as the node expresses that the task "GO TO XX SHOW" has the task "CREATE REPORT", the task "CLEAR TRAVELING EXPENSES" and the task "CLASSIFY CATALOGS" as the subtasks thereof." Where this meets the limitations of representing an icon).

As per claims 6, 16 and 26 Nakaoka teaches the mode is selectively determined (See Figure 14: where the details of the task are selected which indicates the mode of the step of displaying the tasks.).

As per claims 7, 17 and 27 Nakaoka teaches associating data with the work item (See Figure 15: where other information, namely reports, are associated with the task.).

As per claims 8, 18 and 28 Nakaoka teaches the data is selected from the group of: associated owner of the work item, an indication of when said work item was completed, an indication of whether said work item was completed on schedule and an indication of a process coordinator for the process (See Figure 15: where the 'deadline' input feature meets the limitations of indicating when the work was completed).

As per claims 9, 19 and 29 Nakaoka teaches process view further includes a representation of a hierarchical relation of work item to another work item in the process (See Figure 3: where the subtasks are related to the tasks and listed in the chart, and (column 5, lines 8-18) where there is a tree structure which expresses a main task and subtask relationship between tasks and a means for displaying. Additionally, see Figure 11 which depicts a main task "go to show" and it's hierarchically related subsequent sub-tasks, "create report", "clear traveling expenses" etc.).

As per claims 10 and 20, Nakaoka teaches exhibiting the work item in the process view comprises associating the work item with a specified user (See Figure 2: where the "responsible person" field would meet the limitation of a specified user).

### ***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

7. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linda Krisciunas whose telephone number is 571-272-6931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LMK

*LMK*  
*April 12, 2006*

*Susanna Diaz*  
**SUSANNA M. DIAZ**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
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